

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 26-35 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to address this rejection. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 20, 21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,717,510 (Ishikawa). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 20-25 have been cancelled from the present application, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 and 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,433,904 (Swanson). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the subject matter of object to Claim 8. Therefore, Claims 1-14 should now be in condition for allowance.

Applicant further acknowledges the allowability of Claims 26-35. Claim 15 has been further amended to recite subject matter similar to Claim 26 and thus should be allowable, along with claims depending therefrom, for the same reasons as Claim 26. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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